

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presented herein is requested. Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. In the above amendments, claim 13 has been amended.

In the Office Action mailed June 15, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 9-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Applicants respectfully respond to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,901,075 to Offord et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,985,902 to Gurcan. To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation of, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference(s) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

The rejection contends that Offord teaches an apparatus that comprises a plurality of tap weights in a FIR filter whose coefficients are associated with the data signals received during assigned time slots, a summing node coupled to the plurality of tap weights to sum the tap outputs and a processor to process the indicated tap weights coefficient which get updated during the assigned time slots.

With respect, the Examiner's argument is traversed. Contrary to Offord and Gurcan, claim 9 includes a memory storage unit to store coefficient adjustment information. In Offord, there is no memory storage unit and the coefficients are not adjusted; they are simply processed. In the present invention, the coefficient adjustment unit 730 determines the current time slot and adjusts the corresponding set of coefficients. The coefficients are then stored in a memory storage device and retrieved as needed for calculations during each time slot. (See Applicants'

Specification, p.31, ll. 13-15.) This feature is added in claim 13 in order to overcome the rejection.

Applicants thus respectfully submit that claims 9 and 13 are not rendered obvious by the Offord Patent when considered alone or in combination with Gurcan. Claims 14-15 depend from claim 13 and therefore include all the limitations of that independent claim. Since the Offord and Gurcan references do not render claims 9 and 13-15 unpatentable, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections thereof be withdrawn by the Examiner.

The Examiner also rejected claims 10, 11, 12, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Offord in view of Gurcan and further in view of Chin Hwa Lee et al. (Signals, Systems and Computers 1994, Vol. 1, pp. 89-93.) For the reasons mentioned above claims 9 and 13 are not rendered obvious by Offord when considered alone or in combination with Gurcan and Lee. Claims 10, 11, 12, and 16 depend directly and indirectly from claims 9 and 13 and therefore include all the limitations of those independent claims. Since the Offord, Gurcan, and Lee references do not render claims 10, 11, 12, and 16 unpatentable, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections thereof be withdrawn by the Examiner.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 7/20/2004

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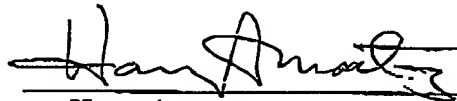
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Expires: May 5, 2005



Harry L. Moatz
Director of Enrollment and Discipline